

Saint Paul, MN - Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) today joined Ramsey County officials and representatives from the area business and labor community in announcing that Union Depot has been awarded a \$35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Minnesota project is included in \$1.5 billion announced by the Obama Administration as part of the U.S. DOT TIGER grants to states, tribal governments, cities, counties and transit agencies across the country to fund 51 innovative transportation projects.

Congresswoman McCollum's remarks follow:

This is great news for St. Paul, Ramsey County and our entire State. This is a major investment in our region and our ability to be competitive into the 21st Century.

Within a few years, Union Depot will again be bustling with passengers coming and going on trains, buses, cars and bicycles.

This federal grant announcement puts Minnesota a huge step closer to realizing the vision of a Union Depot multi-modal transportation hub after decades of planning and millions of dollars of local investment.

We are pleased that President Obama sees Union Depot as a model project for the nation - a true showcase of his commitment to build a transportation future for America that creates jobs, modernizes our economy, and protects the environment.

Today is the first anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and it is clear with this announcement today that these investments made by Congress and President Obama are having a direct impact in our community:

This project will mean thousands of construction jobs right here in St. Paul, building a 21st Century transportation system and boosting our economy.

This is a big step forward and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership to keep Minnesota moving.

We need to keep our vision and investments alive to make sure Red Rock, I-94 and Riverview Corridors are built and connect at Union Depot.

Strong partnerships including the business community, the labor community, and federal, state and local governments through organizations are working together to ensure that investments in passenger rail, roads and bridges are being made throughout our entire state.

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